RAINFALL

SUMMARY

Monthly rainfall for October, November and December 2000 in various rainfall basins and storm water treatment areas is presented in **Table 1**. The monthly rainfall totals are weighted averages of data from rainfall gages reported in the District daily rainfall report compiled by Water Resources Operations and from other agencies collecting rainfall data in south Florida.

Historically the occurrence of rainfall in south Florida during the dry months (November through April) has been generally associated with occasional disturbances such as cold fronts, while during the wet months (June through September) attributed to frequent thunderstorms, tropical storms or hurricanes. May and October have been considered transitional months and can be either wet or dry.

October rainfall District-wide averaged 4.48 inches or 116 percent of the monthly historical average. The major rainfall event of the month, from the 2nd through the 4th, was caused by a poorly organized subtropical disturbance that resulted in excessive flooding in Miami-Dade County. Almost all of the October rain fell during these three days. November was the driest in thirty years. Most of the rain fell from the 24th through the 26th. Overall, District-wide rainfall averaged 0.43 inches or 19 percent of the monthly historical average. The December rainfall ranged from 0.35 inches over Lake Okeechobee to 4.63 inches over eastern Miami-Dade County. The Lower Kissimmee Valley's annual rainfall for 2000 was the driest since at least 1914. Overall, the December District-wide rainfall averaged 0.98 inches or 51 percent of the monthly historical average. Yearly District-wide rainfall for 2000 was 39.46 inches or 76 percent of the historic average. This total rainfall for 2000 tied with 1961 as the second driest year since 1938.

The effects of this quarter's overall below-average rainfall can be observed in low inflows and total phosphorus loads entering Lake Okeechobee in November and December (**Figure 2)** and low phosphorus loads calculated for the EAA November and December (**Figure 8**).

Table 1. Monthly weighted rainfall averages (inches)

Rainfall Basin	Jan-00	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00	Jun-00	Jul-00	Aug-00	Sep-00	Oct-00	Nov-00	Dec-00	12-Month Moving Total
Upper Kissimmee	1.2	0.2	0.8	1.5	1.2	6.7	8.4	6.0	4.9	0.9	0.7	0.9	33.4
Lower Kissimmee	1.2	0.2	1.5	1.7	0.5	4.4	7.8	3.4	6.1	1.2	0.2	0.6	28.8
Lake Okeechobee	1.1	0.6	1.8	3.3	0.9	4.5	5.3	2.8	7.0	1.6	0.3	0.4	29.6
East EAA	1.0	0.8	2.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	7.3	3.5	6.0	5.9	0.2	0.4	41.8
West EAA	0.9	0.9	1.6	5.1	1.6	6.1	6.3	3.9	7.2	9.0	0.1	0.6	43.3
WCAs 1&2	1.2	0.4	5.7	3.8	1.0	4.1	9.1	4.1	6.0	6.6	0.3	0.7	43.0
WCA 3	0.7	1.1	2.4	5.4	0.9	7.3	7.9	4.3	7.1	6.6	0.1	0.8	44.6
ENP	***0.4***	***0.5***	***1.0***	***3.6***	***2.0***	***6.9***	***6.9***	***5.0***	***3.9***	***5.6***	***1.6***	***1.8***	39.2
C111 Basin	0.6	0.9	1.6	3.6	1.9	6.6	9.7	7.7	9.1	10.7	0.5	2.7	55.6
STA-1W	0.7	0.8	3.7	4.4	0.9	1.4	10.0	2.3	6.3	9.8	0.3	0.1	40.7
STA6	0.3	1.0	2.3	3.6	0.4	4.7	11.7	3.1	10.0	16.9	0.0	0.4	54.4

Italisized and bolded values are based on estimate average of rainfall at stations CHEKIKA and S332R